

Urban Tree Commission

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 18, 2018, 7:45 a.m.

City Hall Room 205

Present: Jess Barton, Julia Malakie, Barbara Darnell, Marc Welch.

Absent: Bob DeRubeis, Francesca Piper Koss, Amy Sangiolo, Barbara Smiley, Beth Wilkinson.

Forestry Department Update

- Spring planting completed.
 - About 770 trees planted in fiscal year, including NTC trees.
- Annual risk survey work has begun. Looking for dead and nearly dead trees, will begin removal work in June.
 - Will do risk survey twice this year for at least a portion of the city.
- More tree plantings will take place this fall and the department is just about at capacity for plantings.

Effectiveness of Tree Ordinance

- Question is whether there is data to examine to see the effectiveness of the tree ordinance on long term viability of tree plantings.
 - Since the ordinance was updated, most of the planting plans for construction may be in the computer system.
 - But really hard to track the data (i.e. going back to each planting site each year to compare the plans to the surviving trees).
 - Trees are supposed to survive 18 months but the department does not have the capacity to actually track this.
 - Marc inspects the planting sites after installation but does not have the capacity to do more inspection after that.
- Arbor vitae is sometimes approved, depends on the site. Neighbors may want to not see the house.

New Business

- Public comment from guest who resides in Waban about the tree ordinance and zoning.
 - In her personal experience, the lot next to hers removed about 20-25 trees for a retaining wall but she said there was not an engineering study because there is no engineering study if under a certain square footage and a bump out. It was owner occupied so no tree ordinance implication.
 - Also wondering about the impact of road salting in the winter on the trees. Marc said that it is not a clear cut answer on how much impact the treatment has but there may be an impact on the smaller trees on the main streets.

Meeting adjourned